

Sports

# Late Boult strikes give New Zealand 12-run win over England

## Australia qualified for final at Eden Park

### SCOREBOARD

**WELLINGTON:** Completed scoreboard in the fourth Twenty20 tri-series match between New Zealand and England in Wellington yesterday:

New Zealand	
M. Guptill c Plunkett b Rashid	65
C. Munro c Billings b Wood	11
K. Williamson b Jordan	72
C. de Grandhomme c Jordan b Rashid	0
M. Chapman c Billings b Wood	20
R. Taylor not out	1
T. Seifert not out	14
Extras (b1, lb5, w7)	13
Total (5 wickets; 20 overs)	196
Fall of wickets: 1-39 (Munro), 2-121 (Guptill), 3-121 (de Grandhomme), 4-169 (Williamson), 5-181 (Chapman)	
Did not bat: M. Santner, T. Southee, I. Sodhi, T. Boult	
Bowling: Willey 4-0-36-0, Wood 4-0-51-2 (3w), Jordan 4-0-34-1 (2w), Plunkett 4-0-33-0 (2w), Rashid 4-0-36-2.	

England	
J. Roy c Boult b Southee	8
A. Hales c de Grandhomme b Sodhi	47
D. Malan c Boult b Santner	59
J. Vince run out (Williamson)	10
J. Buttler c Southee b Sodhi	2
S. Billings c Sodhi b Santner	12
D. Willey run out (Seifert)	21
C. Jordan b Boult	6
L. Plunkett b Boult	0
A. Rashid not out	8
M. Wood not out	5
Extras (b2, w2, lb2)	6
Total (9 wickets; 20 overs)	184
Fall of wickets: 1-14 (Roy), 2-79 (Hales), 3-95 (Vince), 4-109 (Buttler), 5-129 (Billings), 6-158 (Malan), 7-168 (Jordan), 8-168 (Plunkett), 9-172 (Willey)	
Bowling: Boult 4-0-46-2, Santner 4-0-29-2 (w1), Southee 4-0-30-1 (w1), Sodhi 4-0-49-2, Munro 2-0-11-0, de Grandhomme 2-0-15-0.	

Result: New Zealand won by 12 runs

**WELLINGTON:** Trent Boult grabbed two wickets on successive balls to help New Zealand to a 12-run win over England in their Twenty20 tri-series match at Wellington Regional Stadium yesterday.

Left-arm seamer Boult bowled Chris Jordan and then Liam Plunkett on the final two deliveries of the 18th over to reduce the visitors to 168 for eight in their pursuit of 197 for victory. Adil Rashid kept out the hat-trick delivery on the first ball of the final over but there was too much for the leg spinner and Chris Wood to do and they finished on 184 for nine.

"It was a must-win for us in terms of the series," New Zealand captain Kane Williamson said in reference to their seven-wicket loss to Australia in their

“ It was a must-win for us ”

opening match. "This is a very strong England side and we had to play some really good cricket."

Australia have already qualified for the final at Eden Park on Feb. 21 after winning all three of their matches so far. Williamson anchored New Zealand's 196 for five with 72 while he also shared in an 82-run second-wicket partnership with Martin Guptill, who scored 65 from 40 balls.

Mark Chapman, who has also played international cricket for Hong Kong, and debutant Tim Seifert then did what they had been brought into the side to do with quick-fire cameos in the middle order. Chapman scored 20, while wicketkeeper Seifert hit two sixes in his six-ball innings of 14 to take the hosts to the equal highest Twenty20 international score on the ground.



**WELLINGTON:** New Zealand's Trent Boult (L) bowls to England's Jason Roy (R) during the first Twenty20 cricket match between New Zealand and England at Westpac Stadium in Wellington yesterday. —AFP

"We were able to build partnerships throughout that gave us momentum and the two debutants were outstanding," Williamson added. "They showed their power which allowed us to get an above-par total." Alex Hales got England's run chase off to a fast start with 47 from 24 balls before Dawid Malan gave England hope for victory as he scored 59 from 40 deliveries. Malan's dismissal in the 17th over with the visitors needing 39

runs for victory, effectively ended their chances. "It was maybe 10 to 15 runs too many ... and we didn't bowl as well as we could have," England captain Jos Buttler said. "We got a fantastic start with Alex and that partnership with Malan, we needed to just extend a bit longer then we didn't get those cameos in the middle order." New Zealand face in Australia the next game of the series in Auckland on Friday. — Reuters

## Sharma ton helps India secure ODI series victory

**PORT ELIZABETH:** Rohit Sharma's century helped India wrap up the One Day International series against hosts South Africa with a 73-run victory at St George's Park yesterday. India took an unassailable 4-1 lead in the six-match series as Sharma finally came good with the bat, scoring 115 after India were asked to bat first and amassed 274 for seven wickets in their 50 overs.

South Africa, who needed victory to keep alive their hopes of levelling the series, were all out for 201 in response. India replace South Africa at the top of the International Cricket Council's ODI rankings. India's ODI series victory came after they lost 2-1 in the three tests played between the two countries last month.

Sharma had struggled with his batting on tour but got India off to a storming start as he finally found form. He was dropped on 96 by Tabraiz Shamsi before going onto make his 17th ODI century, reached off just 107 balls. "It was a long time coming. I just had to keep myself in a good frame of mind. I didn't feel I had to change a lot and I knew that the runs would come," he said after being named man of the match.

But his dismissal, for India's fourth wicket, precipitated a mini collapse as 21-year-old fast bowler Lungisani Ngidi took four wickets in quick succession to finish with figures of 4-51.

India's last 10 overs produced only 55 runs and handed South Africa a gettable target at a run rate of 5.50. But the hosts were 65-3 when AB de Villiers went cheaply after a rash shot in the 13th over and once Hashim Amla departed for 71 after a needless run out, home hopes were dashed.

A cameo 39 from wicketkeeper Heinrich Klaasen, who had been the hero of South Africa's victory in the last match, could not stem the inevitable. Kuldeep Yadav cleaned up the tail to finish with 4-57 in his 10 overs. "We lost wickets in clumps and never got any momentum although it was a decent tally to chase," South Africa's stand-in captain Aiden Markram said. The last match of the series is at Centurion in Pretoria on Friday and will be followed by three Twenty20 clashes. — Reuters



**PORT ELIZABETH:** South Africa batsman David Miller swipes during the fifth One Day International cricket match between South Africa and India at Saint George Park, in Port Elizabeth, yesterday. — AFP

### SCOREBOARD

**PORT ELIZABETH:** Scoreboard at close of play of 5th ODI between South Africa and India yesterday at Port Elizabeth, South Africa

India win by 73 runs	
India	
S Dhawan c A Phehlukwayo b Rabada	34
R Sharma c Klaasen b Ngidi	115
V Kohli Run Out Duminy	36
A Rahane Run Out Morkel	8
S Iyer c Klaasen b Ngidi	30
H Pandya c Klaasen b Ngidi	0
MS Dhoni c Markram b Ngidi	13
B Kumar Not Out	19
K Yadav Not Out	2
Extras 1b 9lb Onb Open 7w	17
Total (50.0 overs)	274-7
Fall of Wickets: 1-48 Dhawan, 2-153 Kohli, 3-176 Rahane, 4-236 Sharma, 5-236 Pandya, 6-238 Iyer, 7-265 Dhoni.	
Did Not Bat: Bumrah, Chahal	
Bowling: Morkel 10-2-44-0, K Rabada 9-0-58-1, Ngidi 9-1-51-4, Phehlukwayo 8-0-34-0, JP Duminy 4-0-29-0, Shamsi 10-0-48-0.	
South Africa	
H Amla Run Out Pandya	71
A Markram c Kohli b Bumrah	32
JP Duminy c R Sharma b Pandya	1
AB de Villiers c Dhoni b Pandya	6
D Miller b Chahal	36
H Klaasen st Dhoni b K Yadav	39
A Phehlukwayo b K Yadav	0
K Rabada c Chahal b K Yadav	3
Morne Morkel lbw Chahal	1
Tabraiz Shamsi	c
Pandya b K Yadav	0
Lungi Ngidi Not Out	4
Extras 0b 6lb Onb Open 2w	8
Total (42.2 overs) 201 all out	
Fall of Wickets: 1-52 Markram, 2-55 Duminy, 3-65 de Villiers, 4-127 Miller, 5-166 Amla, 6-168, Phehlukwayo, 7-196 Rabada, 8-197 Klaasen, 9-197 Shamsi, 10-201 Morkel	
Bowling: B Kumar 7-0-43-0, J Bumrah 7-0-22-1, H Pandya 9-0-30-2, K Yadav 10-0-57-4, Y Chahal 9.2-0-43-2. — Reuters	

## Zidane not worried about future before crunch PSG tie

**MADRID:** Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said yesterday he is not concerned about his future as his side prepare to face Paris St Germain in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie which could determine whether he continues at the club. The Frenchman became the first coach in the Champions League era to successfully defend the trophy last season and also led Real to the La Liga title. However, this season his side have fallen 17 points behind league leaders Barcelona, damaging his managerial reputation.

With Real also out of the King's Cup, the clash against the Ligue 1 leaders and their ferocious trident of Neymar, Edinson Cavani and Kylian Mbappe represents an opportunity to salvage one of the club's worst campaigns in recent history.

"Right now I'm not thinking about my future, I'm only thinking about the game as it's the only thing we can control so we're focusing on preparing for the game and we'll see what happens," Zidane told a news conference ahead of Wednesday's first leg in Madrid.

"Every game and every training session is important to me but my future is not important. I'm very happy about playing these types of games, today there's no pressure in particular, we've prepared the game in the same way we always do. "There will always be pressure here, it's something habitual, but I'm going to keep enjoying myself."

Zidane is facing a French team for the first time since taking the reins at Real in 2016, but said he had nothing to prove back in his home country. "We're not going to change what people think of us, all we can do is work hard, and working hard is my passion. I try to transmit things to my players but I have nothing to prove tomorrow, I just want to play the game, I don't care what people say about me," he said. — Reuters

## Stokes to join England squad in New Zealand

**LONDON:** Ben Stokes will join the England squad in New Zealand after he pleaded not guilty to a charge of affray in court yesterday, the England and Wales Cricket Board said. "Having entered his plea at Bristol Magistrates' Court today, Ben Stokes will now travel to New Zealand to join the England squad," said an ECB spokesman.

"He departs today, and will arrive on Friday 16 February, ready to train with England team-mates in Hamilton." All-rounder Stokes, accused of involvement in an altercation outside a nightclub in the southwestern English city of Bristol that cost him his place on the

Ashes tour, pleaded not guilty to the charge of affray. Stokes, who has not played for England since the incident cost him a place on the Ashes tour of Australia, was cleared for selection by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) last month.

His court appearance came on the day England played New Zealand in a T20 match in Wellington, their first game in a tri-series also involving Australia.

Stokes, 28-year-old Ryan Ali and 26-year-old Ryan Hale spoke to confirm their names, dates of birth, addresses and nationalities. A spokesman for the magistrates' court said all three were sent to Bristol Crown Court on unconditional bail for a hearing to start on March 12.

British media reports said all three had indicated they were acting in self-defence or defence of another. Stokes, vice-captain of the England Test team and one of world cricket's most destructive batsmen, was arrested on Sept. 26 after scoring 73 in a 124-run one day international win over West Indies in the south-western city. —Agencies



Ben Stokes



### Matches on TV (Local Timings)

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Porto v Liverpool	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 2	
Real Madrid v Paris Saint	22:45
beIN SPORTS HD 1	
ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
Sydney v Suwon Samsung Bluewings	11:30
beIN SPORTS HD 6	
Guangzhou Evergrande v Buriram United	12:00
beIN SPORTS HD 5	
Kashima Antlers v Shanghai Greenland Shenhua	13:00
beIN SPORTS HD 7	
Jeju United v Cerezo Osaka	13:45
beIN SPORTS HD 6	